

### **Big Hat Day**

Big Hat Day was attended by 11 Big Hatters! In Cindy Marks' absence, everyone was assessed a \$5 fine just because and \$80 was collected. Projects that are being funded by the Big Hat Club is the \$500 annual sponsorship of the Vermilion County Red, White and Blue Committee who provide car seat safety training and car seats and to provide special harnesses for use in vehicles for children with special needs due to disabilities.

The meeting wrapped up with members wrapping gifts for the more than 80 children with disabilities who will attend the Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 2nd.

### **Lincolnland AMBUCS - Steve Grunden**

Lincolnland wants to PLATE THE STATE WITH AMBUCS to promote visibility through the sales of AMBUCS license plates. These plates can be temporarily displayed on your vehicle from December 31 through February 28 for a cost of \$30.00. You can also order one as a Souvenir set only. Separate information will be forthcoming to order yours through the mail.

### **Branding Time** (a National membership drive from October 1 to November 30)

If you brought a guest during October and November, please make a special effort to contact them about their intentions of joining AMBUCS. If they are interested, membership applications (plus \$25 application fee) still can be submitted by Wed. December 6 for credit for this Quarter, but will not be counted toward the contest awards. Contest Winners will be announced December 6! Looks like Larry Pasquale is in the lead with 2 new members? maybe he can get a third and get his Big Hat. Go Larry! Current membership stands at 100 even! We are short of our goal but the good news is we have THREE new members.

### **Christmas Parties**

Breakfast with Santa is Saturday, December 2 at Days Inn from 9-11:00, with volunteers arriving at 8:00 and the Adult Dance and Pizza Party will follow at Turtle Run Golf Club from 1:00 to 3:00 with volunteers arriving at 12:30.

Sixteen members and their families had a great time shopping for children's gifts on Saturday, November 26, spending just a little under \$1,800!

Everything seems to be in order for both parties - thanks to Melissa & Jason Rome and Richard & Marsha Woodward.

### **Sprayground for Everyone**

During a Committee meeting last Wednesday, Water Play was chosen as the vendor for the equipment to be used in our sprayground at GarfieldPool. This project is estimated to be \$125,000 PLUS in-kind donations. BobRichard is looking for a stainless steel box for the electrical controller if anyone has one they would like to donate. Donations continue to come in and we are awaiting the outcome of several grant applications.

If you haven't received your letter to become a member of the Century Club, give Bob or Bill a call - better yet, send in a check and you will be added to the list of contributors!

### **CRIS Meals on Wheels**

Bill Fulton is again seeking volunteers for the week of January 15 and 22 to deliver meals to seniors and homebound residents.

### **Personal Information Changes?**

Please contact Sasha Fitzpatrick at 446-2564 or [sashapage@yahoo.com](mailto:sashapage@yahoo.com).

### **Guests & Members**

Cheri Turner was guest of Lon Henderson.

Matt Groppi was welcomed as a new member and he was presented an AMBUCS pin and membership information. Matt, owner of Days Inn, highlighted some of the improvements that are currently underway, including complete renovation of the Coaches Bar & Grill.

### **General Announcements**

Mike Puhr made several check presentations from proceeds of the Knights of Columbus Club Tootsie Roll Sale - \$400.00 to Janet Myers for AMBUCS Sprayground for Everyone, \$1,000 to Angie Carlton for the Cerebral Palsy Clinic and \$4,000 to Lon Henderson for School District #118 Special Education Department. It's always nice to have Mike join us for lunch because he always brings money!!!

Tuscola AMBUC members Louis and Dorothy Badger also joined us for lunch. Their Club is selling Christmas Grocery Raffle tickets for 3 chances of \$500 in groceries at the Tuscola IGA. Tickets are \$10.00 each and the drawings will be held on December 21, 2006. For ticket information, call Janet Myers or Louis Badger at 217-837-2956. Let's help support their fundraiser as they supported and attended our annual raffle.

The Financial Statement for period ending May 31, 2006 has been completed. If anyone would like to view a copy, please contact Treasurer Donna Carlton-Vish.

THANKS to Bill Garrison and Carol Wade for their contribution to the New Member Dinner and Orientation held November 28 that was attended by ten members, including five new members and their sponsors.

### **Upcoming Programs & Events:**

- 12/5 - North Ridge School Chorus
- Frank Brunacci from WorkSource
- Branding Time contest winners